Launching of DTH services

2293. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government are going to launch the services of DTH to its viewers;

(b) whether it is a fact that the broadcasters are opposing 20 per cent equity restrictions set under the DTH guidelines;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government on such demand?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Government of India has already approved the DTH policy on 2.11.2000 and detailed guidelines were issued on 15.3.2001. Some suggestions/ recommendations, including removal of the 20 percent equity restriction, have been received from various quarters. In this regard the recommendations of the Working Group on I&B Sector (which was set up by the Planning Commission for the formulation of the 10th Five Year Plan) are under consideration of the Government.

Guidelines for setting up of TV towers in rural areas

†2294. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Government's guidelines for setting up of T.V. towers in rural areas;

(b) whether Government have received applications from local M.P. for setting up of a T.V. tower at Chidgaon, Shimla district;

(c) if so, whether Government will set up a T.V. tower during the year 2002-2003 keeping in view of the demand of public there; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The factors which are taken

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

into account for deciding location of new TV transmitters are, *inter alia,* the existing coverage in the area, the extent of resultant coverage of the new transmitter, need to provide services to remote, tribal, backward, hilly, sensitive border areas, economic and cultural importance of a place, *inter-se* priorities of projects and availability of funds.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Scheme for setting up of a Very Low Power Transmitter (VLPT) at Chidgaon has been sanctioned and is expected to be completed during 2002-03.

(d) Does not arise.

Auction of FM Radio Stations

2295. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of FM radio stations which have been auctioned as on 31st December, 2001;

(b) the number of cities for which the auction was held;

(c) the number of cities in Andhra Pradesh including Hyderabad for which auction was held; and

(d) the total revenue earned on account of the open auction of FM radio stations?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) 101 channels were auctioned between 1st March to 15th March, 2000.

(b) The auction was held for 40 cities.

(c) In Andhra Pradesh, auction was held for 2 cities i.e. Hyderabad and Vishakhapatanam.

(d) Total revenue earned on account of open auction of FM radio stations is Rs. 6394.60 lakhs (which includes earnest moneys but excludes bank guarantees lying with the Government).